

## CABLE DROP MONITOR WITH UPSTREAM SIGNALLING

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

5 A time slot is provided for each terminal  
unit or cable drop of a signal distribution system  
in a repeated sequence to communicate detected  
conditions "upstream". The time slots are defined  
in accordance with a time base responsive to  
broadcast time signals. An identification of each  
terminal unit is transmitted from a directional  
coupler corresponding to the terminal unit or  
cable drop after latching an output of a condition  
10 detector responsive to detection of a condition by  
a sequence of tones or tone pairs, preferably  
using circuits ubiquitous in the  
telecommunications industry. A printer is  
provided for each channel at a central facility  
15 and the transmitting terminal unit is identified  
in response to another time base operating  
synchronously with the time base defining the time  
slots and assigning the time slots to respective  
terminal units. Provision is made for  
20 synchronization of counters, error checking and  
control of polling frequency.